

Harrison Lake

National Fish Hatchery Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Complex

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-3rd)

Contact

Michael Odom, Project Leader
Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery
11110 Kimages Road
Charles City, VA 23030
Phone: 804/829 2421
Fax: 804/829 6067
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: michael_odom@fws.gov

The Virginia Fisheries Coordinator is co-located with the Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery as part of the Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Complex.

Purpose

The original purpose of the hatchery was to rear warm-water fish for farm stocking programs. Today, Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery plays a key role in the Service's efforts to protect and restore declining and endangered populations of migratory fish and shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay, Abermarle Sound and Ohio River watersheds, as well as along the Atlantic coast.

Public Use Notes

- Interpretive visitor center
- Fishing (fully accessible)
- Hiking trail
- Birding
- Wildlife observation
- Dragonfly observation

Management Activities

- Cultures American shad, river herring and striped bass for restoration efforts

- Marks fish with chemical bath treatments for tracking purposes and to provide information on the success of stocking programs
- Helps Virginia Fisheries Coordinator conduct evaluations for American shad, striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon
- Works with other agencies on fish restoration projects
- Provides tours, presentations and other interpretive activities



American shad

Duane Raver/USFWS

Highlights

Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery cultures, marks and stocks up to 6.7 million American shad larvae annually for restoration projects in Virginia and Maryland. Since 1994, the hatchery has stocked over 40 million American shad.

The hatchery has stocked over 16 million American shad larvae into the Potomac River, thereby boosting the Potomac's adult spawning population by an estimated 48,000 fish.

The hatchery has stocked over 19 million American shad larvae into the James River, increasing the James' adult spawning population by an estimated 57,000 fish.

Staff and volunteers are constructing a new building for the culture of imperiled freshwater mussel species for recovery efforts.

The hatchery has stocked over two million American shad larvae into the Rappahannock River, thereby boosting the Rappahannock's adult spawning population by an estimated 7,000 fish.

In 2005, the hatchery began a cooperative experimental river herring restoration project with Virginia Commonwealth University, using culture techniques developed at the hatchery.

The hatchery is working with partners to culture submerged aquatic vegetation for restoration plantings in the Chesapeake Bay.

Issues

In order to meet increasing fisheries management needs in Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast, the hatchery requires upgrades and renovation. The estimated cost (in 2000) for the proposed renovation was \$9 million.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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